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COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

RAWHIDE KID



44
FEB

IND.

HANG ON TO YOUR
STETSON, PARD!
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO THRILL TO...

**"The
MASKED
MAVERICK!"**

THE KID HAS
TO UNMASK
THE
MAVERICK
...OR
DIE!!



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THE KID
REACHES NEW
HEIGHTS OF
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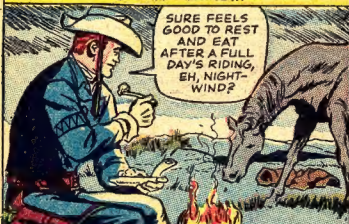
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**RAW-
HIDE
KID**

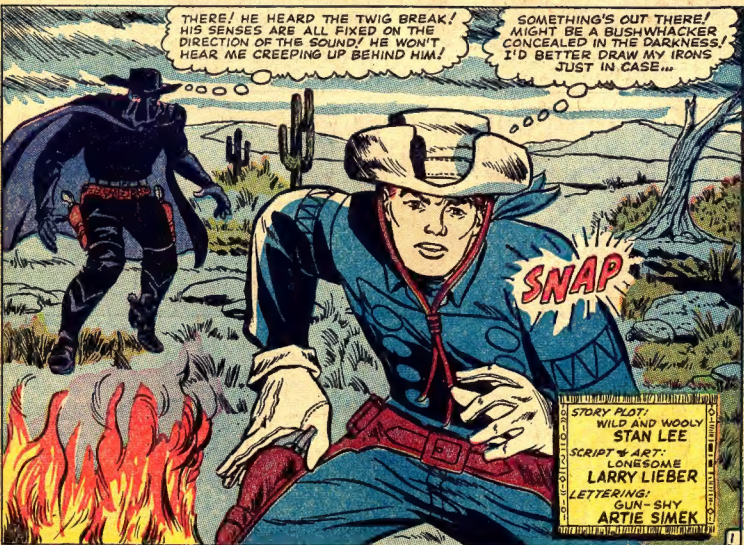
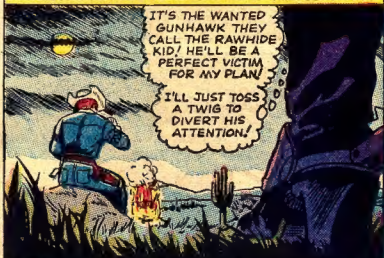
**ACTION, DANGER, AND MYSTERY RIDE THE TRAIL WITH THE KID
WHEN HE FACES THE MENACE OF...**

THE MASKED MAVERICK!

THERE'S NOTHING ESPECIALLY EXCITING ABOUT A PASSING STRANGER JUST STOPPING TO CAMP FOR THE NIGHT... BUT WHEN THAT HOMBRE IS THE RAWHIDE KID-- WELL, THINGS JUST HAVE A WAY OF HAPPENING...



BUT THEN, BEHIND THE KID, A DARK, OMINOUS PRESENCE MOVES STEALTHILY ONTO THE SCENE...



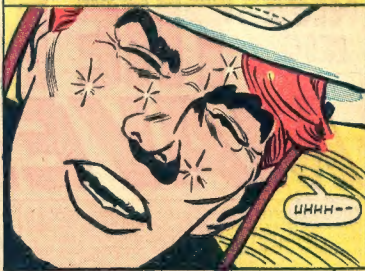
STORY PLOT:
WILD AND WOOLY
STAN LEE
SCRIPT & ART:
LONESOME
LARRY LIEBER
LETTERING:
GUN-SHY
ARTIE SIMEK



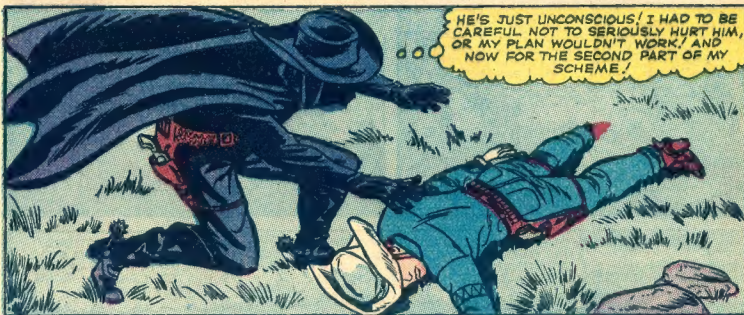
IF THERE IS AN HOMBRE OUT THERE SPOILING FOR TROUBLE, HE'LL GET MORE THAN HE'S BARGAINED FOR!

JUST ANOTHER FEW STEPS!!!

REACHING HIS VICTIM A MOMENT LATER, THE MASKED AMBUSER STRIKES AS SWIFTLY AND RUTHLESSLY AS A RATTLESNAKE!



UHHH--



HE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS! I HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO SERIOUSLY HURT HIM, OR MY PLAN WOULDN'T WORK, AND NOW FOR THE SECOND PART OF MY SCHEME!



LATER, WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS AGAIN WELLS WITHIN THE RAWHIDE KID...

HE'S FINALLY WAKING UP! MUST BE A REAL HEAVY SLEEPER!

MEN-- ALL AROUND ME! WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED WHILE I WAS OUT?

C'MON, YOU! GET UP ON YOUR FEET!

YEAH, MOVE! PRONTO!



WHAT DO YOU ALL WANT?

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH US, KID! IT WON'T WORK!

WE GOT A TIP THAT YOU'RE THE MASKED MAVERICK! THE VARMINT WHO'S BEEN RUSTLING OUR CATTLE FOR MONTHS!



BUT THAT'S PLAIN LOCO! I'M JUST A STRANGER PASSING THRU THESE PARTS! I WAS BUSHWHACKED AND...

STOW IT! WE'LL SOON SEE IF YOU'RE THE MASKED MAVERICK OR NOT! BEN, SEARCH HIS GEAR!



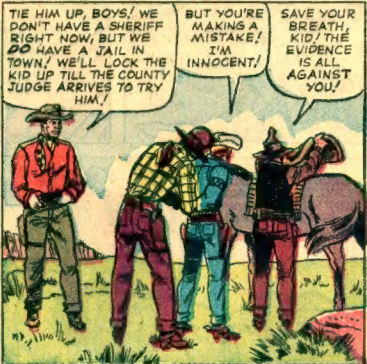
HERE IT IS, HIDDEN AMONG HIS BELONGINGS! THE MAVERICK'S BLACK MASK!

HE'S THE ONE WHO'S BEEN STEALING OUR CATTLE, ALRIGHT!



B-BUT I NEVER SAW THAT MASK BEFORE! WHOEVER AMBUSHED ME PLANTED IT THERE! HE MUST BE THE REAL MAVERICK AND HE'S TRYING TO FRAME ME!

SURE, SURE--THE RAWHIDE KID--MOST WANTED OWLHOOT IN THE TERRITORY, IS JUST A POOR, INNOCENT FELL GUY! WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL?!!



TIE HIM UP, BOYS! WE DON'T HAVE A SHERIFF RIGHT NOW, BUT WE DO HAVE A JAIL IN TOWN! WE'LL LOCK THE KID UP TILL THE COUNTY JUDGE ARRIVES TO TRY HIM!

BUT YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! I'M INNOCENT!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, KID! THE EVIDENCE IS ALL AGAINST YOU!



A FEW DUSTY HOURS LATER...

HEY! THE TIP PANNED OUT! THEY'VE FINALLY CAUGHT THE MASKED MAVERICK-- AND IT DID TURN OUT TO BE THE RAWHIDE KID!



WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN THE MAVERICK WOULD BE AN OUTLAW LIKE THE KID! THE THIEVING COYOTE! I HOPE THE JUDGE GIVES HIM THE LIMIT!

AND AMONG THE SPECTATORS IS WADE MASON!

I'VE HEARD LOTS ABOUT THE RAWHIDE KID! FOR YEARS HE'S BEEN HUNTED MERCILESSLY BY POSSES, AND BOUNTY HUNTERS! I CAN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR HIM, EVEN IF HE IS THE MAVERICK!

YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE IN TOWN WHO FEELS THIS WAY!

BUT THAT'S WHY I'M SO FOND OF YOU! YOU'RE SO **KIND AND GENTLE**-- SO UNLIKE MOST OF THE ROUGHNECKS IN THIS TERRITORY, ESPECIALLY YOUR BROTHER, LINT!

OH, LINT PROBABLY ISN'T AS WILD AS EVERYONE THINKS, BETTY!

AND AT THAT MOMENT, A WILD, HANDSOME FIGURE THUNDERS INTO TOWN!

IT'S YOUR BROTHER, ACTING LIKE AN IRRESPONSIBLE SHOW-OFF AGAIN!

YAH-HOO!! MAKE WAY FOR LINT MASON!

I'VE GOT A POWERFUL THIRST AND I DON'T LIKE TO DRINK ALONE! SET 'EM UP, SAM-- FOR EVERYONE!

HAVE YOU GONE LOCO? GET THAT HORSE OUT OF MY SALOON BEFORE YOU WRECK THE PLACE!

HEY! LOOK OUT!

THE BRASH YOUNG FOOL! SOME DAY, SOMEONE IS GOING TO GIVE HIM HIS COMEUPPANCE! AND I HOPE I'M AROUND TO SEE IT!

ALRIGHT, LINT-- YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN! NOW COME ON OUT OF THERE BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T "WORRYING WADE," MY TIMID BROTHER! DON'T FRET ABOUT ME, SON!

I CAN HANDLE GUNS, HORSES, AND ANY TROUBLE THAT COMES MY WAY! CAN YOU SAY AS MUCH, OL' BUDDY?



YOU FOOL! DO YOU THINK YOUR ARROGANCE AND EXHIBITIONISM ARE THE MEASURE OF A MAN? DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT THE DAY OF THE GUN IS ENDING... AND THE SWAGGERING GUNMAN WILL SOON BE A USELESS MEMORY OF A DEAD ERA??!

WHOOO--EEEE!
YOU SURE DO
HAVE A WAY
WITH WORDS!

'COURSE NOT! YOU'RE A MEEK, PEACE LOVING SCHOLAR... MORE AT HOME WITH SOME DULL BOOK THAN A SIX-GUN!

WHILE *ME*-- I'M A REAL MAN WHO CRAVES EXCITEMENT AND TAKES HIS LAUGHS WHERE HE FINDS 'EM! AND I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU TAME ME, WADE! I MIGHT END UP LIKE YOU!



BUT NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, TEACHER, I GOTTA GET BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF HAVING FUN!

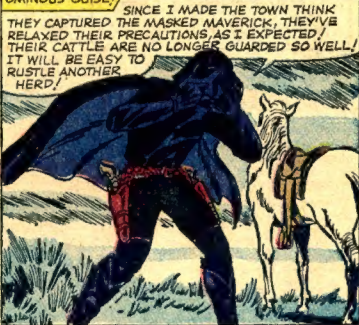
BAH! IT'S USELESS! HE AND I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER, AND I SUPPOSE WE JUST NEVER WILL!

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO IS THE VICTIM OF A MUCH MORE **SERIOUS** MISUNDERSTANDING!

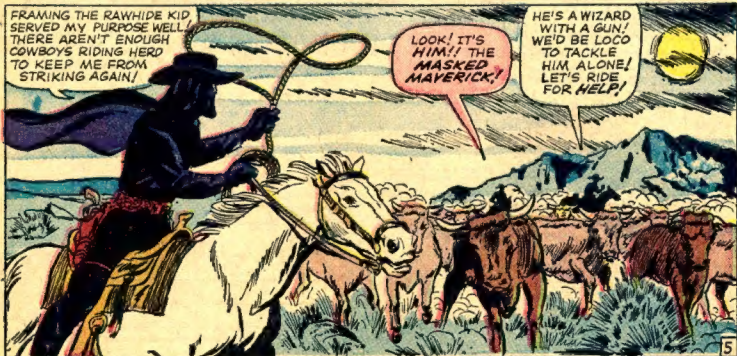


AT MY TRIAL, THAT BLACK MASK WILL CONVICT ME FOR SURE, UNLESS I CAN SOMEHOW PROVE I'M INNOCENT! BUT HOW? HOW??

THAT NIGHT, A SINISTER FIGURE AGAIN DONS HIS OMINOUS GUISE!



SINCE I MADE THE TOWN THINK THEY CAPTURED THE MASKED MAVERICK, THEY'VE RELAXED THEIR PRECAUTIONS, AS I EXPECTED! THEIR CATTLE ARE NO LONGER GUARDED SO WELL! IT WILL BE EASY TO RUSTLE ANOTHER HERD!



FRAMING THE RAWHIDE KID SERVED MY PURPOSE WELL. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH COWBOYS RIDING HERD TO KEEP ME FROM STRIKING AGAIN!

LOOK! IT'S HIM!! THE MASKED MAVERICK!

HE'S A WIZARD WITH A GUN! WE'D BE LOCO TO TACKLE HIM ALONE! LET'S RIDE FOR HELP!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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I KNOW THE RAWHIDE KID'S REPUTATION! WE CAN'T TRUST HIM ANY MORE THAN THE MAVERICK! THEY'RE LIABLE TO TEAM UP TOGETHER AGAINST US!

THAT'S A RISK WE HAVE TO TAKE! BESIDES, WE CAN'T BE WORSE OFF THAN WE ARE NOW!

WHO'S THE GUN-HAPPY HOMBRE?

LINT MASON! HE AIN'T REALLY BAD! HE'S JUST A YOUNG HOT-HEAD WHO LIKES TO SHOW OFF!

YOU--YOU HOOLIGAN! STOP! GET AWAY FROM MY STORE!

SIMMER DOWN, MISTER HANSON! IT'S ALL IN FUN! BESIDES, YOU KNOW MY PA WILL PAY YOU FOR THE DAMAGE!

AND THE RAWHIDE KID WALKS ON WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT, LITTLE DREAMING THAT THE FIERY YOUNGSTER AND THE MASKED MAVERICK ARE CONNECTED LINKS IN FATE'S CHAIN OF EVENTS!

THE BEST GUESS IS THAT THE MAVERICK SELLS THE STOLEN CATTLE IN MEXICO!

MAYBE I CAN PICK UP HIS TRAIL HERE NEAR THE BORDER!

AND SOMETIME LATER...

I PLAYED IT RIGHT! THERE'S THE MAVERICK STEALING BACK ACROSS THE BORDER!

NOW TO EVEN THE SCORE WITH THAT VARMINT!

NO ONE HAS EVER CAUGHT HIM! THOSE WHO'VE CHASED HIM SAY THAT SOMEHOW HE JUST VANISHES INTO THIN AIR! WELL, I'M NOT ABOUT TO START BELIEVING IN GHOSTS!

HE'S HEADING FOR THOSE ROCKS! C'MON, NIGHTWIND, STRETCH YOUR LEGS, BOY!

BUT, MOMENTS LATER...

WHA--HE'S GONE!! BUT HOW??
I SAW HIM RIDE INTO THIS
CANYON! HE COULDN'T HAVE
JUST DISAPPEARED!!



**AND THEN, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE
IT, THE KID GLIMPSES A CON-
CEALED OBJECT!**

SOMETHING'S HIDDEN IN THAT
BUSH! IF THE MOONLIGHT
DIDN'T MAKE IT SHIMMER, I'D
NEVER HAVE NOTICED
IT!



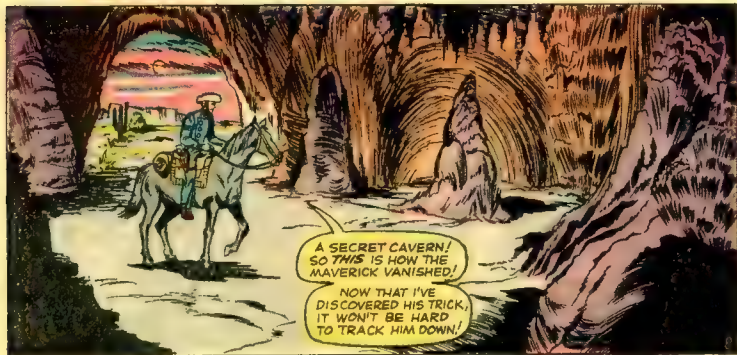
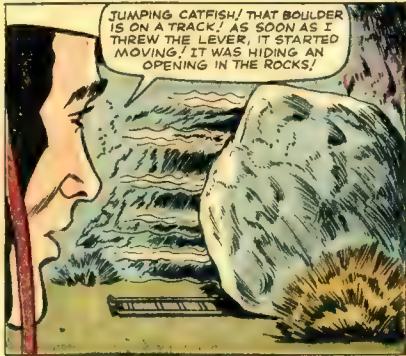
**IT'S SOME KIND OF MECHANICAL
LEVER! BUT WHAT USE COULD
IT HAVE OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE??**



I'LL PULL IT AND SEE
WHAT HAPPENS! MAYBE
IT'S SOMEHOW TIED IN
WITH THE MAVERICK'S
DISAPPEARANCE!



JUMPING CATFISH! THAT BOULDER
IS ON A TRACK! AS SOON AS I
THREW THE LEVER, IT STARTED
MOVING! IT WAS HIDING AN
OPENING IN THE ROCKS!



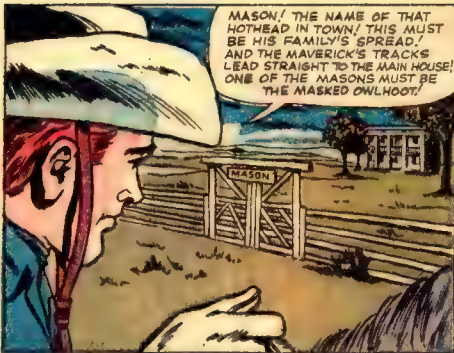
A SECRET CAVERN!
SO THIS IS HOW THE
MAVERICK VANISHED!

NOW THAT I'VE
DISCOVERED HIS TRICK,
IT WON'T BE HARD
TO TRACK HIM DOWN!

HE LEFT THE CAVERN THRU THIS OTHER EXIT, LEADING OUTSIDE THE CANYON! THERE ARE HIS TRACKS! HE HEADED TOWARD THAT RANCH IN THE DISTANCE!



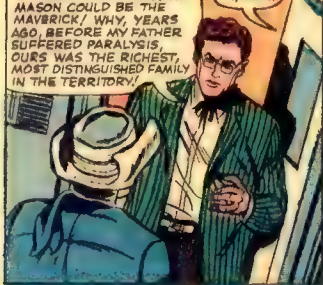
MASON! THE NAME OF THAT HOTHEAD IN TOWN! THIS MUST BE HIS FAMILY'S SPREAD! AND THE MAVERICK'S TRACKS LEAD STRAIGHT TO THE MAIN HOUSE! ONE OF THE MASONS MUST BE THE MASKED OWLHOOT!



BUT THE KID SOON DISCOVERS THE DIFFICULTY BETWEEN KNOWING SOMETHING AND PROVING IT!

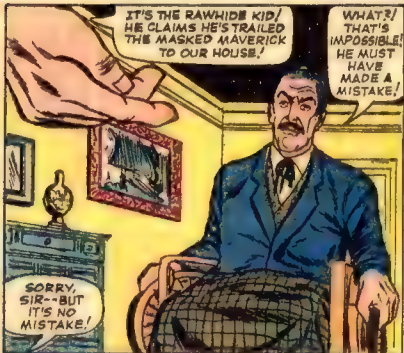
YOUR ACCUSATION IS UTTERLY RIDICULOUS! NO MASON COULD BE THE MAVERICK! WHY, YEARS AGO, BEFORE MY FATHER SUFFERED PARALYSIS, OURS WAS THE RICHEST, MOST DISTINGUISHED FAMILY IN THE TERRITORY!

WHO IS IT, SON?



IT'S THE RAWHIDE KID! HE CLAIMS HE'S TRAILED THE MASKED MAVERICK TO OUR HOUSE!

WHAT?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE!



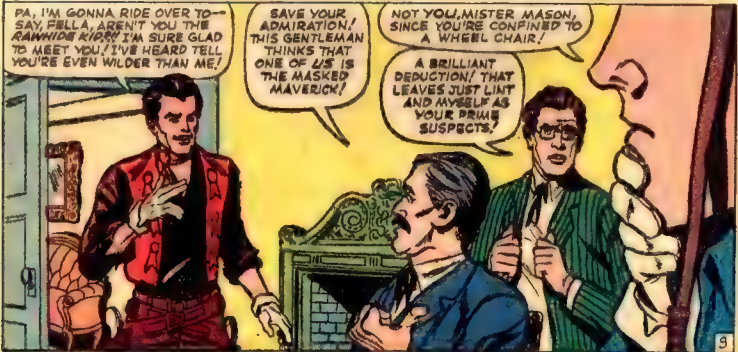
SORRY, SIR--BUT IT'S NO MISTAKE!

PA, I'M GONNA RIDE OVER TO-- SAY, FELLA, AREN'T YOU THE RAWHIDE KID? I'M SURE GLAD TO MEET YOU! I'VE HEARD TELL YOU'RE EVEN WILDER THAN ME!

SAVE YOUR ADMIRATION! THIS GENTLEMAN THINKS THAT ONE OF US IS THE MASKED MAVERICK!

NOT YOU, MISTER MASON, SINCE YOU'RE CONFINED TO A WHEEL CHAIR!

A BRILLIANT DEDUCTION! THAT LEAVES JUST LINT AND MYSELF AS YOUR PRIME SUSPECTS!



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LOOK, KID, NO ONE ACCUSES ME OR MY BROTHER OF CATTLE RUSTLING--NOT EVEN YOU! NOW KAMOOSE BEFORE I THROW YOU OUT OF HERE!

SURE! YOU AND WHAT ARMY, BOY?



JUST ME ALONE, HOMBRE!

FELLA, YOU GOT A BAD TEMPER AND EVEN WORSE MANNERS! YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!

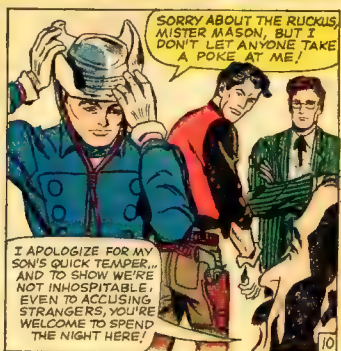


THEN START TEACHING, RUNT! LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE EVEN HALF AS TOUGH AS THEY SAY YOU ARE!
~00000F~

IT'S NOT THAT I'M TOUGH! IT'S JUST THAT FIGHTING IS MY PROFESSION! WHILE YOU, HOTSHOT, ARE STRICTLY AN AMATEUR!



ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP!



SORRY ABOUT THE RUCKUS, MISTER MASON, BUT I DON'T LET ANYONE TAKE A POKE AT ME!

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SON'S QUICK TEMPER... AND TO SHOW WE'RE NOT INHOSPITABLE, EVEN TO ACCUSING STRANGERS, YOU'RE WELCOME TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE!

TIRED AFTER A LONG DAY'S RIDING, THE KID ACCEPTS THE INVITATION... BUT HIS TROUBLED THOUGHTS ALLOW HIM LITTLE SLEEP!

I'M SURE THAT ONE OF THE BROTHERS IS THE MAVERICK, BUT WHICH ONE?? QUIET, SCHOLARLY WADE MASON... OR WILD, RECKLESS LINT??



AND, WHILE THE KID PONDER'S, AN OMINOUS CLOAKED FIGURE CREEPS DOWN THE PARKENED CORRIDOR!

THE RAWHIDE KID IS IN THE GUEST ROOM, BY NOW HE MUST BE SOUND ASLEEP...



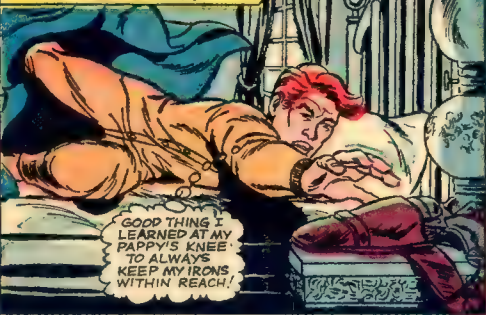
...AND I'M GOING TO FIX THE MEDDLING FOOL SO HE STAYS THAT WAY FOR GOOD!



THAT SOUND! SOMEONE'S OPENING THE DOOR! IT'S THE MAVERICK!! HE'S TRYING TO BUSHWHACK ME AGAIN! WELL, THIS TIME I'M READY FOR HIM!



WITH COUGAR-LIKE SPEED, THE MOST FAMOUS OF WESTERN GUNHAWKS MAKES HIS PLAY!



GOOD THING I LEARNED AT MY PAPPY'S KNEE TO ALWAYS KEEP MY IRONS WITHIN REACH!

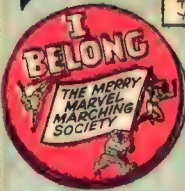


NOW THAT I'M ARMED, HE'S RUNNING! THE SIDEWINDER JUST DOESN'T HANKER FOR A FAIR FIGHT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

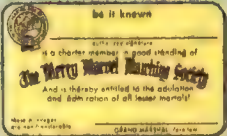
The Merry Marvel Marching Society

THOUGHT WE'D NEVER DO IT, EH? WELL, HERE IT IS! AN HONEST-TO-GOSH FAR-OUT FAN CLUB IN THE MIXED-UP MARVEL MANNER! WE TRIED TO MAKE IT EXCITING ENOUGH TO PLEASE A YANCY STREETER, MERRY ENOUGH TO FORCE JONAH JAMESON TO CRACK A SMILE, AND DIFFERENT ENOUGH TO MAKE SUB-MARINER SEND US A DRIPPING-WET DOLLAR! SO, IF YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THE FIRST TO JOIN, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU MAY NEVER GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN! (UNTIL NEXT ISH!) AND, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T TRUST ANYBODY, LOOK: HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL GET...

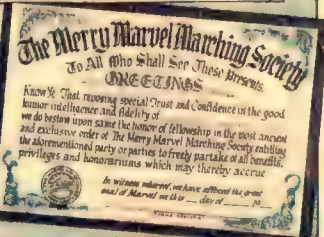


A GIANT-SIZE M.M.M.S. **MEMBERSHIP BUTTIN** IN DECORATOR COLORS! JUST THE THING TO COVER GRAY STAINS ON YOUR SUPER-HERO CAPE, AND DESIGNED TO LOOK GREAT WHEN WORN NEXT TO YOUR PHI BETA KAPPA KEY!

A WHOLE MESS OF ABSOLUTELY USE-LESS M.M.M.S. **STICKERS** WHICH YOU CAN PASTE ONTO YOUR BOOKCOVERS, THE HUBCAPS OF YOUR STING-RAY! (AND, FOR THE INGRATES WHO DON'T APPRECIATE US, WE HAVE SOME THAT READ "HELP STAMP OUT THE M.M.M.S.")



WHEN OUR BULLPEN GANG DESIGNS A **MEMBERSHIP CARD**, WE DON'T KID AROUND! OUR 'PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO MARVEL', WHICH YOU'LL FIND ON THE BACK, IS PROBABLY THE FUNNIEST THING SINCE THOR'S LAST CREW-CUT! NATURALLY, IT'S A GREAT STATUS SYMBOL, TOO! JUST WAVE IT AROUND NEXT TIME YOU'RE INVITED TO THE PENTAGON, AND WATCH THE TOP BRASS FLIP! (YOU MAY DISCOVER THAT THEY'RE MERRY MARCHERS, TOO!)



FOR THOSE OF YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE FIVE FRANTIC FRIENDS, WE'RE GONNA BREAK OUR HEARTS AND OFFER A REAL BARGAIN! ALL SIX OF YOU CAN JOIN FOR ONLY FIVE DOLLARS! AND, BESIDES ALL THE JAZZ MENTIONED ABOVE, WE'LL DESIGNATE THE SIX OF YOU AS AN OFFICIAL M.M.M.S. LOCAL CHAPTER AND SEND YOU THIS PRACTICALLY PRICELESS MARVEL **CERTIFICATE!** (IT'S FIVE TIMES THE SIZE YOU SEE HERE!) YOU CAN HANG IT ON YOUR CLUBHOUSE WALL, OR PUT IT SOMEWHERE TOO HIGH TO READ AND TELL EVERYBODY IT'S YOUR DIPLOMA FROM OXFORD! AND, OL' SMILING STAN LEE WILL PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPH EACH AND EVERY CERTIFICATE... JUST TO PROVE HE CAN WRITE!

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(WRITE NICE AND NEAT! WE'LL AWARD A SPECIAL DE LUXE NO-PRIZE FOR THE BEST COUPON WE GET!)

HI, GANG!

LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED DUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TO.....

NAME _____

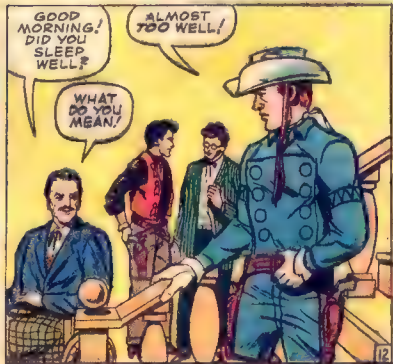
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'NUFF SAID!

AND WE WON'T FORGET YOU MERRY MARCHERS! IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOW THERE'LL BE MORE SURPRISES TO COME!



I MEAN THAT THE MASKED MAVERICK TRIED TO FINISH ME OFF LAST NIGHT! AND NOW I KNOW HE'S ONE OF YOUR SONS, 'CAUSE ONLY YOU THREE KNEW I WAS SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE AND WHAT ROOM I WAS SLEEPING IN!

I-I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU CAN'T BE SURE!



NEVER MIND HIM, PA! I'M SURE-- SURE THAT HE'S A LIAR! C'MON, KID, STEP OUTSIDE! YOU AND ME ARE DUE FOR A SHOW-DOWN... AND I DON'T MEAN WITH FISTS!

NO, LINT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL GUNSLINGER! YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE!



DON'T FRET, PA! I DON'T WEAR THESE TWIN IRONS JUST FOR SHOW! I'VE HAD A LOT MORE GUN PRACTICE THAN YOU SUSPECT! I CAN OUTDRAW, AND OUTSHOOT ANY MAN IN THE TERRITORY!

I HOPE YOU'RE THAT GOOD, LOUDMOUTH... 'CAUSE YOU'RE SURE GONNA NEED TO BE!



OKAY-- ANY TIME YOU'RE READY, MAKE YOUR PLAY!

I'LL COUNT TO THREE! THEN I'M SENDING YOU TO BOOT HILL!

ONE... TWO...



AND IN THE NEXT TENSION-FILLED SECOND, FOUR DEADLY WEAPONS LEAP INTO ACTION!

...THREE!

SO LONG, KID!





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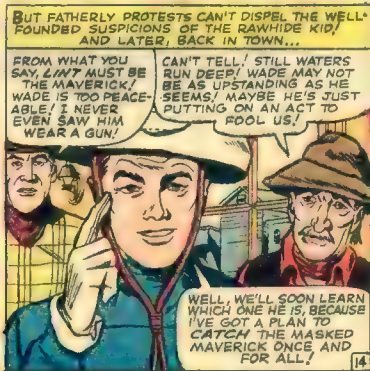
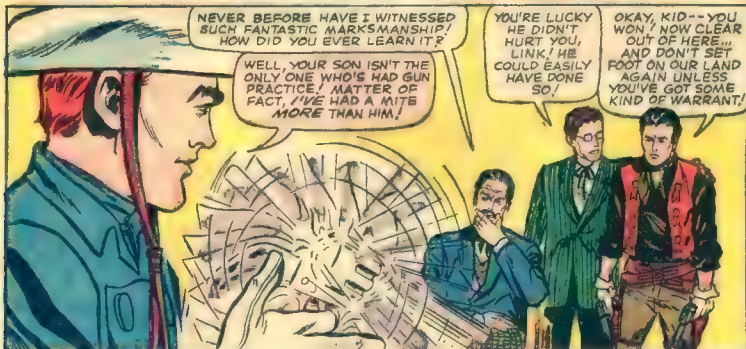
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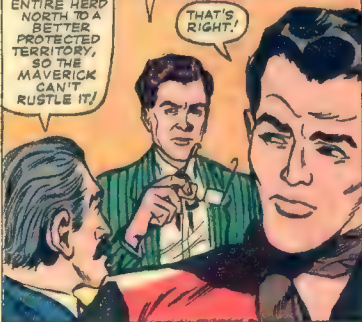


A COUPLE DAYS LATER, AT THE MASON RANCH,...

I HEARD IN TOWN TODAY THAT JED HARRIS IS MOVING HIS ENTIRE HERD NORTH TO A BETTER PROTECTED TERRITORY, SO THE MAVERICK CAN'T RUSTLE IT!

HMMN... IF THE MAVERICK WANTS THOSE CATTLE, HE'LL HAVE TO STRIKE FAST, OR LOSE HIS CHANCE!

THAT'S RIGHT!



THAT NIGHT, THE HARRIS HERD DRIVES NORTH, SETTING THE STAGE FOR A FATEFUL FINAL ACT IN OUR STRANGE DRAMA!



AND CONCEALED IN THE EVENING DARKNESS, A GRIM-FACED RIDER WATCHES THE CATTLE THUNDER BY!

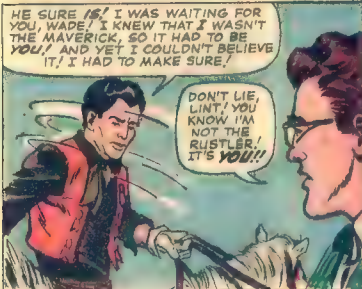
I FIGURED THAT THEY'D COME THIS WAY!

SO THE KID WAS RIGHT! THE MAVERICK IS ONE OF US!



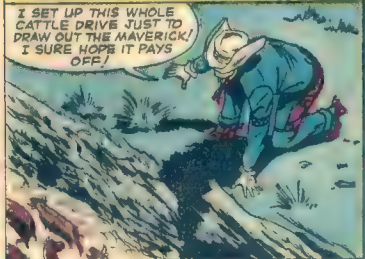
HE SURE IS! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, WADE! I KNEW THAT I WASN'T THE MAVERICK, SO IT HAD TO BE YOU! AND YET I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! I HAD TO MAKE SURE!

DON'T LIE, LINT! YOU KNOW I'M NOT THE RUSTLER! IT'S YOU!!



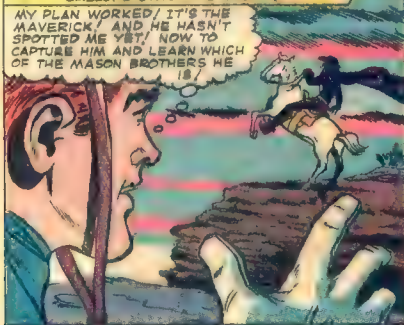
MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY, ANOTHER FIGURE WAITS IN TENSE ANTICIPATION!

I SET UP THIS WHOLE CATTLE DRIVE JUST TO DRAW OUT THE MAVERICK! I SURE HOPE IT PAYS OFF!



AND MINUTES LATER, THE MENACING MARAUDER GALLOPS ONTO THE SCENE!

MY PLAN WORKED! IT'S THE MAVERICK! AND HE HASN'T SPOTTED ME YET! NOW TO CAPTURE HIM AND LEARN WHICH OF THE MASON BROTHERS HE IS!



OH, OH--HE'S SEEN ME AND HE'S HIGHTAILING IT! C'MON, NIGHTWIND, AFTER HIM, BOY!

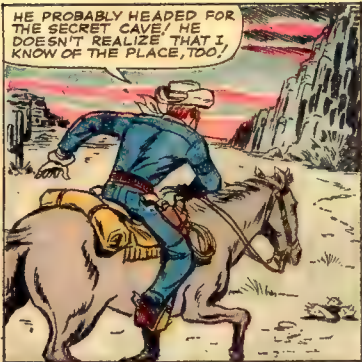


BUT THE SINISTER RUSTLER, BEING MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA, MANAGES TO SHAKE HIS PURSUER LONG ENOUGH TO REACH HIS HIDING PLACE!

IT WAS A TRAP! I UNDERESTIMATED THE RAW-HIDE KID! HE'S CLEVER! BUT EVEN HE WON'T FIND ME IN THIS CONCEALED CAVERN!



HE PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE SECRET CAVE! HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I KNOW OF THE PLACE, TOO!

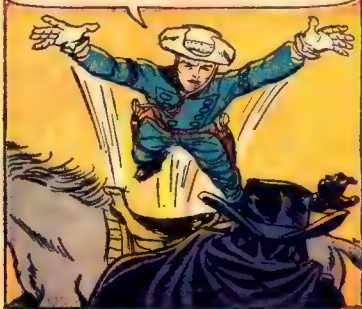


OKAY, MAVERICK-- YOUR CATTLE RUSTLING DAYS ARE OVER!

THE KID??!! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?? HOW DID YOU FIND--?



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE HOW? ROUNDS ONE AND TWO WERE YOURS, SIDE-WINDER-- BUT THIS IS GONNA BE MINE!!



MEETING ME HEAD ON IS A MITE TOUGHER THAN AMBUSHING ME FROM BEHIND-- ISN'T IT, MISTER?!

THWAK!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? DOESN'T THE BIG BAD BANDIT FEEL LIKE TALKING?



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NICE TRY, MISTER, BUT THAT CLOAK TRICK WON'T CATCH ME OFF-GUARD A SECOND TIME! AFTER ALL, I'M NOT A BULL...



...EVEN TWO YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU RECOVER!



WELL, HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH? ARE YOU READY TO GIVE UP?

YES--YOU WIN! I KNOW WHEN I'M LICKED!

IF I CAN JUST REACH MY GUN BEFORE HE SEES ME

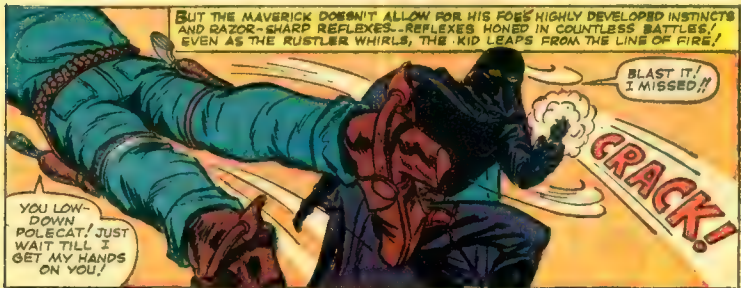


BUT THE MAVERICK DOESN'T ALLOW FOR HIS FOES' HIGHLY DEVELOPED INSTINCTS AND RAZOR-SHARP REFLEXES--REFLEXES HONED IN COUNTLESS BATTLES! EVEN AS THE RUSTLER WHIRLS, THE KID LEAPS FROM THE LINE OF FIRE!

BLAST IT! I MISSED!!

CRACK!

YOU LOW-DOWN POLECAT! JUST WAIT TILL I GET MY HANDS ON YOU!



BUT ~~THE~~ IS TO DISPENSE THE FINAL IRONIC RETRIBUTION, CAUSING THE FATAL SHOT TO RICOCHET OFF THE WALLS OF THE CAVE, UNTIL...

UHHH... I'M HIT!



THEN SUDDENLY, THRU THE SECRET ENTRANCE TO THE CAVERN, LEFT OPEN BY THE RAWHIDE KID, CAME THE MASON BROTHERS!

I WAS RIGHT! I DID SEE THE KID ENTER HERE--AND LOOK! HE'S CAUGHT THE MAVERICK!

BUT IF THE MAVERICK ISN'T YOU OR ME, WHO IS HE??

THE ONLY OTHER PERSON HE CAN BE...



OH, NO! IT'S PA!!

I-- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

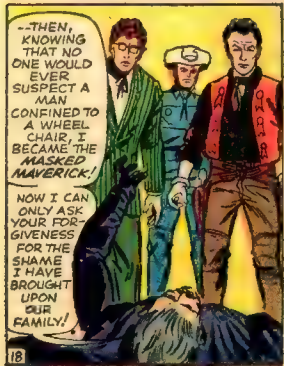
IT'S TRUE! I'M THE MASKED MAVERICK... AND NOW I'M DYING, BY MY OWN HAND...

HEAR ME WELL... WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME! FOR YEARS OUR RANCH HAS BEEN LOSING MONEY! WE'VE BEEN GETTING INTO WORSE AND WORSE FINANCIAL STRAITS, WHILE I WAS AT MY WIT'S END!

THEN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO MY PARALYSIS SOMEHOW LEFT ME! I MIRACULOUSLY REGAINED THE USE OF MY LEGS! BUT I DIDN'T LET ANYONE KNOW THIS, FOR I HAD A PLAN...



I REMEMBERED THIS REMOTE CANYON FROM MY YOUTH! BY BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE WITH A MOVABLE BOULDER, I MADE IT INTO A PERFECT ESCAPE ROUTE FOR A RUSTLER...



--THEN, KNOWING THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER SUSPECT A MAN CONFINED TO A WHEEL CHAIR, I BECAME THE MASKED MAVERICK!

NOW I CAN ONLY ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR THE SHAME I HAVE BROUGHT UPON OUR FAMILY!

AND, AS THE DYING LAW-BREAKER PLEADS FOR HIS SONS' FORGIVENESS, HIS ADVERSARY TURNS AND LEAVES THE SCENE...



FORGIVE ME---

AND THE WEST'S MOST COLORFUL LEGENDARY FIGURE RIDES OFF... AS A BLACK GLOVED HAND SLOWLY SINKS TO THE GROUND... TO REMAIN MOTIONLESS FOREVER MORE!



THE END

"WHEN THE GUNMEN COME!"

IT'S EVENING AND
THE SOMBER SILENCE
IS PIERCED BY THREE
MENACING RIDERS!
MEN WITHOUT HONOR
...WITHOUT CONSCIENCE!
MEN WHO
LIVE BY THE GUN!



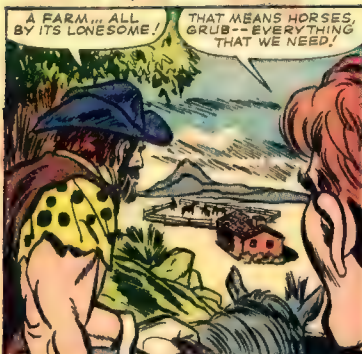
IT TOOK A HEAP OF RIDING
TO SHAKE THE POSSE, OUR
HOSSES ARE PLUMB WORE
OUT!

WE ALSO NEED FOOD
AND SUPPLIES, BUT
WE'RE A DAY'S RIDE
FROM THE NEAREST
TOWN!

HEY, WE'RE
IN LUCK!
LOOK OVER
THERE!

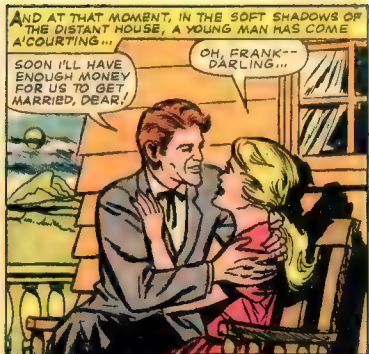


EDITED BY:
STAN LEE
SCRIPT & ART:
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LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK



A FARM... ALL BY ITS LONESOME!

THAT MEANS HORSES, GRUB--EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED!



AND AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE SOFT SHADOWS OF THE DISTANT HOUSE, A YOUNG MAN HAS COME A'COURTING...

SOON I'LL HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR US TO GET MARRIED, DEAR!

OH, FRANK--DARLING...



AND WHEN THE GUNMEN STEAL CLOSER FOR A BETTER LOOK...

IT'S JUST A YOUNG GAL AND HER FELLA!

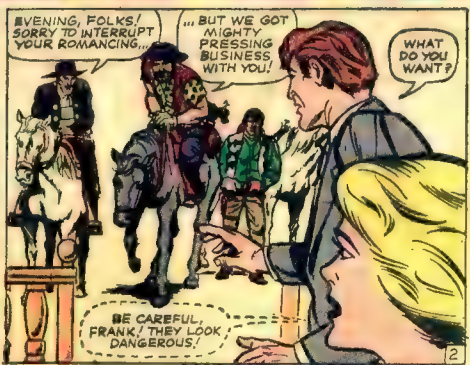
LOOK AT 'EM SPOONING! NOW AINT THAT A PURTY SCENE?

YEH! TOO BAD WE GOTTA SPOIL IT! C'MON! LET'S RIDE DOWN!



STEALING THEIR HORSES AND SUPPLIES WILL BE AS EASY AS ROLLING OFF A LOG.

YEP! THAT HELPLESS YOUNG GAL SURE CAN'T STOP US! AND AS FOR HER FELLA, IF HE PUTS UP A FIGHT, WE'LL STOP HIM!



EVENING, FOLKS! SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR ROMANCING...

...BUT WE GOT MIGHTY PRESSING BUSINESS WITH YOU!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

BE CAREFUL, FRANK! THEY LOOK DANGEROUS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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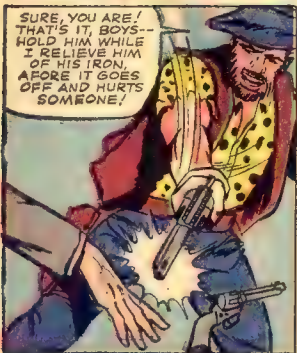


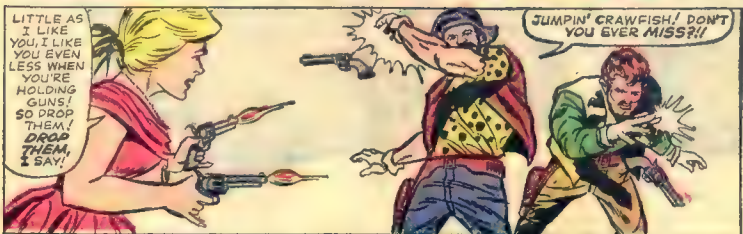
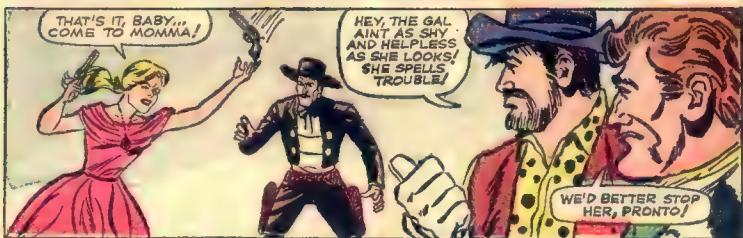
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SHUCKS, I'M JUST GETTING STARTED! HOW'S THIS FOR FANCY SHOOTING?

MY BELT!!



AND JUST IN CASE YOU INTEND RUNNING OFF BEFORE I'M FINISHED, WE'LL SEE HOW FAR YOU GET WITH BUSTED HEELS!



THEN, WHEN THE OUTLAWS' NIGHTMARE IS FINALLY ENDED...

I TRIED TO WARN YOU OWL-HOOTS! I EVEN TRIED TO CHASE YOU OFF THE FARM MYSELF SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO TANGLE WITH MY GAL, 'CAUSE I KNEW OF HER QUICK TEMPER.

BUT DON'T FEEL TOO BAD! THERE AREN'T MANY HOMBRES WHO WOULD'DVE DONE MUCH BETTER THAN YOU DID IN A FRACUS WITH...



MISS ANNIE OAKLEY!!

THE END

RIDIN' THE TRAIL WITH RAWHIDE

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Larry,

The artwork on the RAWHIDE KID has improved greatly. Larry Lieber has it all over the former artist! The stories are better, too. By the way, why doesn't Kid Colt team up with the Rawhide Kid? Please write the origin of the Rawhide Kid. Bye now!

Robert Rader, 1147 E. 92nd St.
Brooklyn 36, N.Y.

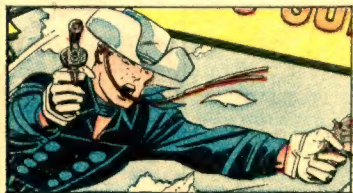
You really hit the jackpot, R.R.! We're gonna do BOTH of the things you asked about! Our very next issue of the Kid (RAWHIDE KID #45) will fill you in on his entire origin! And, we were already working on your other suggestion when we received your letter! Don't miss KID COLT #121 for a real action epic featuring Kid Colt AND ol' Rawhide himself! How ABOUT that!

Dear Stan and Larry,

You are tops in art, stories and all the things that count to your loyal fans! When I read your Marvelous Marvel material, I can really believe that your characters exist. I don't know if it's here on earth, but I believe they exist somewhere. When I read your books I can believe I'm there with them or standing by watching them. This may sound stupid, but I can't help feeling this way when I read your comics.

Daniel McCauley, 9501 Chillorothe Rd.
Willoughby, Ohio

We know what you mean, Daniel! We sometimes feel that way too, especially when we start finding hoof-prints or stray bits of webbing in the reception room . . .



Dear Stan and Larry,

All of your westerns are good, but recently you've been saying that the Rawhide Kid is wanted by the law in some states. I never knew this. How come??? I don't know why, but once I read one of your mags, I'm hooked! Maybe that's what the Marvel Age of Comics means. But somehow I feel that Stan Lee (that ol' mental wizard) is responsible . . . eh?

Joseph Scorzy, 8701 Meridian Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks a heap, Joey! But Larry rates a lot of the credit from now on, as he's both writing and drawing the Kid's thrillers. (While ol' Stan blue pencils the strips with wild abandon!) As for the Kid being an outlaw, the whole thing will be clearly explained in the great tale we have lined up for you next ish. Okay?

Dear Stan and Larry,

I would like to comment on RAWHIDE KID #42. I thought the art was just great! Larry Lieber did a wonderful job on the Kid. Hope he'll keep on improving and doing the Rawhide Kid!

Robert Vann, 1033 Boston Rd.
Bronx, N.Y. 10456

YOU hope so?? So does ol' LARRY!



Dear Stan and Larry,

I would like to pat you on the back—you're great! This is definitely the Marvel Age of Comics! I'd like to make a suggestion for either your FANTASTIC FOUR or RAWHIDE KID mags. Why not have a story where the FF go back in time and meet the Rawhide Kid or one of your other Western heroes, TWO-GUN KID or KID COLT? I'm sure lots of fans would like that!

William Gremmel, 11803 Colam Terr.
Philadelphia 14, Pa.

Well, now, hombre, any Marvel Madman worth his panic button knows that calls for another poll! So come on, gang, do we leave our gunslingers by their range-riding lonesomes, or do we call in some of our super-heroes to give 'em a hand! Now you know us—even our polls are something special! Dashing, different, and delightfully daring (sort of like Artie Simek's lettering)! So this time, we want your answers to be in rhyme! You can have as many lines as you want, but we won't let you go over 20 words. F'rinstance:

"Have Benjamin Grimm meet the Rawhide Kid,

We'd buy more comics if you did."

Or, just to show you we're interested in both kinds of opinion:

"If the Torch goes back to help Kid Colt,

We Marvel fans will all revolt!"

Got it? Then let's go! We've got a special handcrafted, leather-tooled, silver-cinched no-prize for the winner! And as you know, the best thing about our famous no-prizes is—they'll fit in anywhere!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

A Line-Up Of The Marvelous Westerns On Sale Right Now:

KID COLT #121 and TWO-GUN KID #74 don't go on sale till next month. But watch for them. They're a couple of doozies!

BOYS! MEN! I'LL HELP YOU MASTER

YUBI WAZA

— says N.J. FLEMING — YUBI WAZA MASTER

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11:06 P.M. Plus 7 SECONDS — You are untouched — while every hoodlum is on the run.

The VITAL Decision is YOURS to make: Which shall it be? **1**—Will you let "chicken" by running away? **2**—Be a "hothead" and be beaten up? **3**—Mail coupon now and be prepared with Yubiwaza to send your attackers flying!

I'M A 3rd-DEGREE HOLDER OF THE BLACK BELT—SYMBOL OF HIGH PROFICIENCY IN THE JAPANESE SYSTEM OF SELF-DEFENSE THAT USES NO WEAPONS BUT BARE HANDS. I spent many years in Japan learning these little-known SECRETS. The most amazingly effective of all Self-Defense techniques that stood out in ALL my Japanese Training is contained in my AMAZING new Yubiwaza book — all yours to have if you ACT NOW. YUBI WAZA is the name of a fantastic system of Self-Defense that makes use of an EASY-to-Learn knowledge of vital body areas and the techniques of the use of just ONE Finger or the entire hand to counteract & overcome ANY violent attack. It is commonly known that with the aid of Yubiwaza young men — and girls, too! — with only a few hours of training, turn back 2, 3 and even 4 attackers — temporarily — **DISABLING ONE**, putting another to flight, making a third howl with pain, while the fourth begged his opponent to stop!

NOW YOU TOO CAN LEARN YUBI WAZA!

The experts in Japan, who know and teach these ONE-Finger techniques, have now explained that YUBI WAZA is a centuries-old system of Self-Defense which is so simple and so effective that outsiders were never instructed in its use. The system was restricted to Japanese who SWORE to apply these methods only in time of danger and attack by an aggressor. Many of the very techniques in my Yubiwaza book, once highly guarded secrets of the ancient Samurai warriors, never shown to outsiders are now shown to you — **FIRST TIME!**

EASY — And I am now ready to show you, too, through clear, easy-to-understand photos, every secret. I guarantee to make you a YUBI WAZA specialist in hours — or every cent you paid will be refunded. You don't have to attend any school where a brain begins like you and turn them into experts. Now I can show you how to practice YUBI WAZA in the privacy of your own home, with only a few minutes of practice a day. I'll show you how to defend yourself against hoodlums, bullies, "wise guys" and juvenile delinquents — who respect neither lives nor property.

When you apply YUBI WAZA methods, you can cut an aggressor down with JUST ONE FINGER! You can disarm an opponent rushing you with his fists, a broken bottle, a revolver or any kind of bludgeon. You can turn an aggressor's attack into your advantage with only one finger or your bare hands. No matter how "hot" the action gets, YUBI WAZA keeps you "on top." You can apply simple pressure of your finger against any one of a dozen or more vital nerve centers of your opponent and watch his gun or knife fall from his limp hand while he himself sinks to the ground completely helpless and faint. If the neighborhood bully pushes you, you

"I WEIGH ONLY 98 LBS. YET I CAN PARALYZE A 200 POUND ATTACKER WITH JUST A FINGER — BECAUSE I KNOW YUBI WAZA!"

says Yoshie Imanami — Pretty Japanese wife of N.J. Fleming — Yubiwaza Master



can make him say "Uncle" quickly — with the help of YUBI WAZA!

MASTER EVERY SITUATION!

Make no mistake! The world is crowded with anti-social enemies who think nothing of sliding a knife into the ribs... or attacking peace-loving citizens just for the fun of it... or molesting boys and girls shamelessly. There is a crying need for a system of self-defense that relies on KNOWLEDGE, not big muscles or strength... that depends on TECHNIQUE — not on weight or size of body... that is based on simple TRAINING — not on illegal possession of weapons.

When you know YUBI WAZA, you can disarm and disable your opponent in seconds. You can repeat a mugger who grabs you from behind — no matter how big he is or how much he weighs. Instantly you know WHERE to attack, and how. You learn the body's major vulnerable regions, the defense or on-guard position to take, and your body's personal weapons which you can apply to maximum advantage. I have ten-packed all I know about YUBI WAZA into my Guide, which I have profusely illustrated and clearly explained. I take you step by step through the fundamentals of this amazing system so that you understand clearly and immediately how these effective principles work. You learn those tricks used by marines, police and G-men — how to fear any bully... how to touch vital spots that will make any attacker helpless. No matter whether you are big or small, strong or weak, you can overpower practically any opponent with lightning speed!

BECOME A NEW MAN!

Knowledge of YUBI WAZA will turn you into a NEW MAN even if you never actually have to use it! For you will become SELF-ASSURED through your ability to handle yourself. You will walk with a deter-

mined and confident air secure with the knowledge that NOTHING can frighten you... that you can deal with ANY man, ANY weapon, ANY situation — and that you can do all this with NO bodily contact! And you will win respect and admiration from everyone. Thousands of men of all ages have won confidence and respect by learning YUBI WAZA. You can do the same! You owe it to your own peace of mind... to your friends and loved ones — to be able to defend yourself in those days when attack may come at any time and place from hoodlums, criminals and delinquents. So mail Coupon NOW for my COMPLETE Instruction on YUBI WAZA. If you and your friends don't say that YUBI WAZA has made a NEW MAN out of you, every cent will be refunded!

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